

Award by John Smeaton of the Boundary of Rampgill & Coalcleugh veins 8 May 1779 (D/Wal/31)

Transcribed by David McAnelly March 2011

Whereas Joseph Hilton late Moor Master or principal mine agent to the Commissioners and Governor of the Royal Hospital for Seamen at Greenwich in the County of Kent, and Joseph Dickinson principal lead mine agent to Sir Thomas Blackett Bart., did on the 15th October 1778 sign a certain memorandum relative to the ascertaining of the Boundary between Rampgill and Coalcleugh vein which memorandum is in the words and figures following. That is to say.

Nenthead 15th October 1778

Memorandum We the undersigned having been requested to make the Dialling and measures for enabling us to fix the Boundary of Rampgill and Coalcleugh vein in the great Limestone, immediately underneath where it crosses the middle of the Long Ditch which said Ditch is cast and agreed upon to be the Boundary between the Manor of Alston Moor and the Regality or Manor of Hexham, and having carefully and at different times each of us made Dialling's and measures, and this day having jointly examined the same do agree that the whole is accurately done in consequence of which we have this day fixed a stake at the distance of forty eight feet or thereabouts westward in the direction of the said vein from the middle of the said ditch, which stake is agreed up[on] by us to be directly perpendicular above an Iron wedge which we also this day fixed in the east most sump sunk by the Governor and Company for Smelting down Lead &c., into the great Limestone in Rampgill vein, and which said iron wedge is driven into the rider in the north side of the said sump five feet below the bottom of the great Limestone *tumblers*? And it appears to us by this days examination that the said Governor & Company have in some parts of their great limestone forehead worked into the sills of the Blackett liberty and in other places not quite to it, and that the workings must be frequently examined as they are worked deeper, which will be very easily done so the stake and iron wedge are admitted to be right fixed.

Joseph Hilton Moor Master
Joseph Dickinson Principal Lead
Mine agent to Sir Thomas Blackett Bart.

And Whereas Robert Percival principal lead mine agent to the Governor and Company for Smelting down Lead with Pitt coal and Sea coal, lessees under the said Commissioner and Governor did object to the fixing of the stake

above mentioned declaring that the same appeared to him not to be perpendicular to the Iron wedge above mentioned.

And Whereas John Smeaton of Austhorpe on the County of York Esq., engineer hath at the request of Messrs Nicholas Walton the younger and John Cruhloe Twiner on behalf of the said Commissioners and Governor and John Erasmus Blackett Esq., on behalf of the said Thomas Blackett Bart., taken upon him to ascertain the true point perpendicular to the said iron wedge, he the said John Smeaton doth make the following minute of his transactions in the business, that is to say.

We the said John Smeaton having carefully dialled and measured the said premises in question upon the 7th and 8th days of this instant May, being assisted by the said Robert Percival; and the said Joseph Dickinson taken every measure and observation at the view of the workings he the said John Smeaton doth hereby declare and decide that the said wedge described in the above recited memorandum is four inches north by east by the magnetic meridian from a perpendicular line supposed to be let fall from the center of a wooden post where it enters the surface of the ground, that was this day fixed at or about the distance of fifty eight feet westward from the point where the vein in the said workings underground will intersect the middle of the Long Ditch which long ditch is agreed upon to be the Boundary between the manor of Alston Moor and the Regality of Hexham and in consequence of which operations a certain mark fixed by us at the forehead of the said workings was found and is hereby declared to be eighteen inches and one half inch within the boundary of the Manor of Alston Moor and so much short of the Regality of Hexham according to the present apparent course of the vein of that place. In witness where of I have here unto sett my hand this Eight day of May 1779

John Smeaton

We the said Robert Percival and Joseph Dickinson having perused the above do hereby agree to the above decision. Witness our Hands

Rob't Percival
Jos. Dickinson



JOHN SMEATON.

Ms. Helton
Dickinson

